

# **Statewide Water Quality Management Working Group Meeting Minutes of July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## **Attendees**

Alan Urban, CAG  
Andy Koester, ADEQ  
David Christiana, ADWR  
Edwina Vogan, ADEQ (Chair)  
Jason Kelly, NACOG  
Jon Gillespie, NACOG  
Julie Hoffman, MAG  
Karl Taylor, Mohave County  
(via phone)

Kathryn Matthewson, La Paz County  
(via phone)  
Kevin Bright, AZGFD  
Linda Taunt, ADEQ  
Mead Mier, PAG  
Mindi Cross, ADEQ  
Nora Yackley, La Paz County (via  
phone)  
Randy Heiss, SEAGO  
Rick Stacks, Yuma County

## **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Edwina Vogan, AZ. Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), called the Water Quality Management Working Group (WQMWG) meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) representative Mead Mier is no longer available to serve as Chair of the WQMWG. She will remain the PAG representative. Edwina Vogan, ADEQ will be the chair for the WQMWG meetings and conduct organizational activities as necessary.

## **2. Announcements**

ADWR representative David Christiana, announced that ADWR has relocated its office in the same building as ADEQ. This is David's first attendance at a WQMWG meeting. Kevin Bright of the AZ. Game and Fish Department was in attendance.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of January 5, 2016 – Action Item**

A summary of the January 2016 WQMWG meeting decisions and discussion was provided to the meeting . An audio recording of the January 2016 WQMWG meeting is on the PAG website. Meeting attendees were asked to review the January 2016 meeting minutes and provide comment. Several corrections were offered by members. After the minutes review was completed, Yuma County made the Motion to Approve with a second Motion to Approve by SEAGO. The members moved that the January 5th, 2016 minutes with the corrections be approved and were approved unanimously.

### **4. Presentation of the CAG 208 Plan Update**

Alan Urban of CAG gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2016 CAG 208 Plan Update document. Seven years have passed, several 208 staff changes, and unanticipated considerations in cross DPA boundary planning to complete the 2016 Update. He discussed the approval process through the CAG regional committees.

The CAG 2016 Plan Update is focused on goals and strategies for project approval, rather than an inventory of wastewater facilities as the major determinant. The Planning Project, a new 208 process and an alternative to the full amendment process, is hoped to make 208 amendments not as common an option as it was with the 1994 208 Plan. In the new 208 plan, an appeals process can be utilized in the event that stakeholder consensus is not reached in the early phase of project approval. The 2016 208 plan provides a glossary of terms for those unfamiliar with the 208 program to explain the terminology used in the document. The plan has gone through two sets of public hearings to incorporate planning ideas offered in comments. Although the approval process was lengthened, the process added value to the 208 document. In order to assess the effectiveness of the new process of approval, CAG will conduct a 208 mock process in the near future with a prior amendment to see how the process would work. In addition, there will be an annual review of the CAG 208 Plan Update to consider any changes in the document or process, if necessary. Alan concluded the presentation and asked if there were questions from the meeting. The CAG 208 Plan Update is discouraging surface water discharges

in the region. PAG asked for more information about whether river flows were considered one of the beneficial uses.

As there were no further questions, a motion was made to recommend an approval of the CAG 208 Plan Update to ADEQ.

**ACTION:** The Motion to Approve the CAG 208 Plan Update was made by Jason Kelly, NACOG and seconded by Richard Stacks, Yuma County.

## **5. ADEQ Staff Report**

### **Electronic filing of SMRFs and DMRs – MyDEQ**

Mindi Cross of the AZPDES Individual Permits Unit discussed the new EPA requirement beginning December 21, 2016 to move from paper filing to electronic filing of Surface Monitoring Reports (SMRF)s for Arizona wastewater facilities. The hope is that electronic filing will save resources of time and data entry for both permittees and DEQ. An electronic database, MYDEQ, has been established for use by the facilities to file and receive electronic assistance in filing correct reports, helping to alleviate common reporting errors. Aquifer Protection Permittees are being encouraged to establish a MYDEQ account so they can file their Daily Monitoring Reports (DMRs). Mindi acknowledged that the WQMWWG members are not the targeted audience to utilize MYDEQ, but asked the group to inform facilities in their areas about the new requirement. After the meeting, Mindi's presentation would be emailed to the WQMWWG attendees. ADEQ is sending monthly email blasts to alert the facilities about the new requirement.

## **6. DPA FY17 proposed funding distribution**

Linda Taunt led the discussion on the FY2017 funding options for the Designated Planning Agencies. She said it is the same funding process agreed to as in the FY2016 process, a five year average including consistency reviews, amendments and travel costs. Some DPA programs operate differently, some with more amendments, or more consistency reviews as well as travel expenses. Linda stated newer plans are moving away from amendments and the possibility of attending meetings. Two meetings by webinars could affect expenditures for 208 budgets, saving travel costs. Carryover money will be less than the previous year, FY 2016.

Another option would be to divide the \$40,000 by 8 (the number of DPAs) and not include travel.

The discussion revolved around one question – what should be included in the base amount of DPA funding in addition to travel expenses? In the past, travel expense was the primary consideration in the base amount of funding. MAG and PAG advised that although travel expenses are an important part of the funding formula, urban areas like MAG and PAG are impacted by more development proposals than the rural areas of Arizona. Due to the additional staff time and effort needed for reviews, these factors should be considered in the base amount. How to re-formulate the funding proposal? At this time, MAG stated that the DPAs who have the most growth will receive less money than other DPAs. MAG and SEAGO suggested corrections to the spreadsheet entries in the travel category. Linda offered several funding options. All the DPAs could be considered as one block and the counties as another block for funding. As PAG was no longer to receive funding as the chair of the WQMWG, that money could be available in the funding. Linda asked which DPAs were charging fees for amendments.

A motion to Approve was offered by Julie of MAG to change the mileage rate and use the five year figure with no base. Randy of SEAGO seconded the Motion to Approve. The group approved the vote unanimously. PAG wants a base amount in the funding equation to handle inventory and plan updates, but said it would accept the proposal as offered by MAG.

### **Safe Drinking Water – Technical Assistance Program**

As the topic of drinking water quality has been brought into a national conversation, DEQ has been actively working to guide, assist and provide more resources to the operation and maintenance of drinking water systems.

Linda Taunt works with drinking water systems around the state. A number of systems are out of compliance because they don't have the needed resources to be in compliance. There are 1,530 non-tribal public water systems and 1100 systems in the state that serve less than 500 people. There are four categories of systems: cities and towns, domestic water improvement districts (DWIDs), Community Facilities districts and county

improvement districts. DEQ has been working with the Corporation Commission as they regulate many of these systems.

She is part of the team that conducts onsite visit meetings with owner-operators and communities to discuss on-going issues and ask how DEQ can support to improve the systems maintenance. Collaboration with other agencies like WIFA, the Arizona Corporation Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for funding and regulatory issues is essential. There are three basic types of systems: a community system, a non-transient community system and a transient system. There is also a group of non-regulated drinking water systems. Questions and answers were shared about the issues of Arizona's drinking water systems.

What are some of the system issues? In most systems, the issues for capacity development are the systems operations and monitoring. Some systems have Notice of Violations, some Notice of Corrections. For example, a system may be lacking an emergency operations plan to cover what will happen when a system goes down, and how to get the system up and running as soon as possible. Some common contaminants in drinking water systems are naturally occurring arsenic and nitrates. DEQ is working to solve operations with the managers. In some instances, contractors have been hired to evaluate drinking water systems. Last year seventeen systems were helped and 150 system managers. Linda stated she could be contacted if a DPA knew of a drinking water system that wanted or needed assistance.

## **7. Status of 208 Plans and Plan Amendments**

- A. CAG – Expectations are that several amendments will occur over the next few years. A Johnson Utilities project may be one of the upcoming amendments. Development is slowly coming back.
- B. La Paz County – No amendments at this time.
- C. MAG – No amendments at this time.
- D. Mohave County – No amendments at this time
- E. NACOG – None at this time. The Town of Tusayan may submit an amendment. NACOG has a summer intern, Jon Gillespie to begin the GIS mapping of infrastructure in the region. Jason mentioned a three part educational series called "Future of Water" on NETFLIX.

- F. PAG – Mead made several announcements. She is conducting two 208 Consistency Reviews. PAG will update their GIS inventory and is preparing to update their 208 Plan. A consultant will be hired to work on the update as they do not have a 208 Planner. PAG offered to help DEQ with the transition of the WQMWG information from the PAG website. Mead would like to see “work base factors” in next year’s DPA budget and will send the DPAs her proposal. Mead recorded this meeting on her phone.
- G. SEAGO – No amendment at this time.
- H. Yuma County – No amendment at this time.

## **8. Call to the Audience**

There was no response to the Call to the Audience. Andy Koester of the ADEQ Surface Water AZPDES Individual Permits Unit spoke about the recent reorganization of the Units in the Water Division. For example, the AZPDES unit now has Compliance and Enforcement staff which represents an aspect of the new “value stream” concept.

SEAGO raised the question whether the “Call to the Audience” should be early in the agenda, or remain at the end of the meeting agenda. SEAGO and Yuma County voiced concerns that the “Call to the Audience” should be in the first part of the meeting so that items on the agenda could be addressed earlier, not at the end of the meeting. A suggestion was made to add the Call to the Audience as an item in the Announcements section of the agenda, and at the close of the meeting to inquire if there were any remaining comments from the audience.

## **9. Next Meeting Date/Request for Future Agenda Items**

**Topics** for the next meeting were discussed. A number of presentations were suggested and some are the following:

The Tres Rios Wetlands

MAG’s new streamlined 208 process

State Land planning process

The Tucson Recycled Water Master Plan

Trace Contaminants in Reclaimed Water used in farming irrigation or in Recharge

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – location TBA. It was not decided whether the meeting would be by conference call.

**Action Items for the next meeting's agenda:**

Review of the WQMWWG By-Laws and the Committee Fact Sheet

Discuss and vote on a new meeting schedule for 2017

Discuss the Call to Audience section

Business was concluded and a motion to Close the meeting was made by SEAGO and seconded.